

6-1961

Churches of Christ Salute You with a Herald of Truth: June Sermons

Herald of Truth

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CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU WITH THE

HERALD



F

TRUTH

RADIO
SERMONS

JUNE
1961

STATIONS CARRYING HERALD OF TRUTH TELEVISION PROGRAMS

City	Station	Ch.	Time	City	Station	Ch.	Time
ALABAMA				New Orleans	WVUE	13	11:00 a.m.
Birmingham	WBRC	6	5:30 a.m. (Wed).	Shreveport	KSLA	12	8:00 a.m.
Mobile	WALA	10	9:00 a.m.	MICHIGAN			
ALASKA				Detroit	CKLW	9	8:30 a.m.
Juneau	KINY	8	1:30 p.m.	Saginaw	WKNX	57	1:30 p.m.
ARIZONA				MINNESOTA			
Tucson	KOLD	13	10:15 a.m.	Mankato	WEYC	12	
CALIFORNIA				MISSISSIPPI			
Los Angeles	KTTLA	5	8:30 p.m.	Greenwood	WABG	6	3:30 p.m.
San Francisco	KGO	7	9:00 a.m.	Jackson	WJTV	12	10:00 a.m.
COLORADO				Meridian	WTOK	11	12:00 p.m. (Sat.)
Denver	KBTW	9	9:00 a.m.	MISSOURI			
Gr. Junction	KREX	5	10:00 a.m.	Cape			
FLORIDA				Girardeau	KFVS	12	8:30 a.m.
Ft. Meyers	WINK	11	10:30 p.m.	Jefferson City	KRCG	13	2:00 p.m.
Orlando	WLOF	9	1:00 p.m.	Springfield	KYTV	3	8:30 a.m.
Panama City	WJHG	7	5:30 p.m. (Sat.)	NEBRASKA			
GEORGIA				North Platte	KNOP	2	12:30 p.m.
Albany	WALB	10		NORTH CAROLINA			
Savannah	WSAV	3		Asheville	WISE	62	6:30 p.m.
IDAHO				Asheville	WLOS	13	9:00 a.m.
Twin Falls	KLIX	11	2:00 p.m.	Greensboro	WFMY	2	1:00 p.m.
ILLINOIS				Wilmington	WECT	6	12:00 p.m.
Harrisburg	WSIL	3	1:30 p.m. (Wed.)	NORTH DAKOTA			
Quincy	WGEM	10	11:00 a.m.	Williston	KUMV	8	4:00 p.m.
Rockford	WTVO	39	11:15 a.m. (Sun.)	Bismark	KFVR	5	9:30 a.m. (Sun.)
INDIANA				OHIO			
Ft. Wayne	WPTA	21	12:00 p.m.	Cincinnati	WCPO	12	8:00 p.m. (Sat.)
KANSAS				OKLAHOMA			
Great Bend	KCKT	2		Okla. City	KWTV	9	8:30 a.m.
Topeka	WIBW	13	8:30 p.m.	OREGON			
KENTUCKY				Portland	KPTV	12	8:30 a.m.
Louisville	WAVE	3	9:00 a.m.	PENNSYLVANIA			
LOUISIANA				Johnstown	WJAC	6	10:00 a.m.
Lake Charles	KPLC	7	4:30 p.m. (Sat.)				

STATIONS CARRYING HERALD OF TRUTH TELEVISION PROGRAMS

City	Station	Ch.	Time	City	Station	Ch.	Time
SOUTH CAROLINA				VIRGINIA			
Charleston	WUSN	2	12:00 p.m.	Petersburg	WXEX	8	
				Portsmouth	WAVY	10	
SOUTH DAKOTA				WASHINGTON			
Aberdeen	KXAB	9	5:30 p.m.	Richland	KEPR	19	
				Yakima	KNDO	23	
TENNESSEE				Spokane	KREM	2	11:30 a.m.
Chattanooga	WRGP	3	9:00 a.m.	WEST VIRGINIA			
Johnson City	WJHL	11	11:00 a.m.	Bluefield	WHIS	6	9:15 a.m.
TEXAS							(Fri.)
Abilene	KRBC	9	1:00 p.m.	Clarksburg	WBOY		(Sat.)
Amarillo	KVII	7	8:30 a.m.				
El Paso	KELP	13	2:30 p.m.	WYOMING			
Fort Worth	KTVT	11	8:30 a.m.	Casper	KTWO	2	4:00 p.m.
Port Aruthur	KPAC	4	9:30 a.m.	CANADA			
Sherman	KXII	12	5:00 p.m.	Saulte Ste. Marie,			
UTAH				Ontario	CJIC		9:00 a.m.
Ogden	KVOG	9					

This list is not 100% correct due to frequent changes.
Check your local newspaper or television station for times not listed.
All times are Sunday unless otherwise indicated.

OUT OF THE MAILBAG

Dear Mr. Baxter:

Please send me a copy of the lesson "Choosing a Church." We've just heard you give it and also much impressed. Never have I heard any lesson more simple, yet most powerful. It is exactly the expression of becoming a Christian and worship and etc. — that I've wanted.

If there are charges please send collect. May I please have two copies. Thank you so much.

M. S.
Lawton, Oklahoma
2005 "A" Avenue

THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Route 7, Box 59
Frogmore, S.C.
May 5, 1961

Dear Brother Baxter:

I am a regular listener to the Herald of Truth which are being brought by you each Lord's day that are being sponsored by the Durant Avenue Church of Christ of North Charleston, So. Carolina.

I am also a member of the congregation of the St. Helena Church of Christ, here in Frogmore, S. C. we are very few in members because it seems as no one want to believe the Apostle doctrine. Bro. Baxter I really is learning a lots from your teachings. I am asking you to please send me a couple of your books; entitled, "Understanding the Bible" I will appreciate it so much.

Yours in Christ,
C. S. Jr.

8308 Van Buren St.
St. Louis (II) Mo.
April 23, 1961

Dear Brethren in Christ,

I would like to request program 482. I heard it on KXEN radio this morning.

Brethren you are to be commended for the work you are doing. It is wonderful.

It is wonderful to hear Brother Harper speak the truth in love, I believe his speech is the easiest for me to understand that I have ever heard.

We were made to rejoice this morning. One was buried with her Lord in baptism, and one was restored to the faith.

I am a member of the church of Christ at Lemay Mo.

Brethren may I say for the city of St. Louis, the churches of Christ salute you.

J. B. I.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Mr. Baxter
Pastor Highland Church of Christ
Abilene, Texas

Dear Brother in Christ:

A neighbor across the hall has asked me over the last two Lord's Day evenings so that I might enjoy your sermons. They are the true gospel and I love them.

I am 84½ years old and was baptized into Christ when I was 18. Many times I have lived in towns where there was no Church of Christ — but where there was a true (not Disciples) Church I always affiliated.

You will rejoice when I tell you that you have converted my neighbor who is a Lutheran, to the true Church, to Christ and she has told me as soon as her arthritis will enable her to get down the stairs, so my daughter can take her, she will go to church with us, confess Christ and be baptized. She realizes she has not been baptized.

I know her conversion, by your preaching, will gladden your heart.

Sincerely, in His blessed name.

(Mrs. Wm.) N. H.
Shelton, Washington

I am enclosing an offering for your work as I know radio time costs money. (\$5. enclosed)

Mrs. Wm. N. H.
Shelton, Washington

Dear Sister:

Your recent letter recounting incidents concerning the Herald of Truth in your city causes us to rejoice in the fact that we have had a part in converting your neighbor. This letter is being forwarded to Brother Batsell Barrett Baxter, speaker on the program,

and we feel sure that you will be hearing from him before too long.

May we commend you on your zeal in the Lord's work even at your age.

Thanks so much for your contribution for the radio work which will go a long way in helping us stay on the stations we are now on and help prevent having to drop some for lack of funds.

Yours in Him,
Highland Church of Christ
John F. Reese

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE WANTED

March 31, 1961
Virginia

Dear Sir:

I am a widow and I have two sons, ages 9 and 12. We live with my mother who is also a widow. We lost my father in January 1961 and I'm so happy to say that he was a Christian and he would have loved to have heard your program. I work in a factory and don't get to watch T.V. very much, but this passed Friday I was home and got your program. I was so thrilled to hear that you had Bible courses that could be had by mail, but I didn't get full detail. So if it's possible I would like to have a course for both the boys and one for myself. That is if you have one for children and adults. Also I'd like to have the booklet you were talking about on Friday, March 31st. My mother will be watching your program every week, and as often as I can I will watch it too. I can't tell you how happy it makes me to see Christ's church going forward. We need more such programs as yours, and more men of God as you are teaching the real truth of the word of God. You will be hearing from my family and I again. We heard your program on Friday at 9:30.

Your Sister in Christ,
Mrs. H. M.

FOUR SCORE YEARS YOUNG

May 6, 1961
Texas

Dear Brethren in Christ:

I can wait no longer to write and tell you how much I enjoy reading the book of Sermons each month. I read and pass them on to others. Inclosed is a check for \$3.00. I wish I could help more but my mother who is 82 and I have only her old age pension check and what I make by baby sitting. Hope to have a little more to send you soon. Keep up the wonderful work. I get you over Ft. Worth each Sunday. May the Lord continue to bless you in your efforts to bring Christ into the homes. We have a wonderful young preacher here and Christ's church is growing.

In Christian love
Mrs. A. M. A.

Dear Brethren:

I am very happy to be able to contribute a small donation to help keep the Gospel on the air. Wish I could send more but at this time it is impossible. My income is a widow's portion of only \$60.00 per month. I am 84 years old, live alone and am almost an invalid from arthritis, yet I try to help the Lord's work in every way I can. Sincerely, may God help you in His cause.

Mrs. A. E. F.
Bristow, Okla.

Missouri

Herald of Truth:

Enclosed find one dollar to help preach the gospel to the whole world.

In Christian fellowship,
The C. O. Family

P.S. I get the Herald of Truth program each Lord's Day at 8:30 over KCMO, KC, Mo. It is a wonderful program. I am proud to be able to have a small part in helping keep it on the air.

It is hard to believe there are those who oppose a fine work like the "Herald of Truth."

NEW CONGREGATIONS NEEDED

English, Indiana
Route 1
May 7, 1961

The Highland Church of Christ;
Abilene, Texas

Dear Brethren in Christ:

I had the privilege this morning of hearing a great sermon by Brother Willeford, on "The Gospel: The power of God unto Salvation" on the Herald of Truth T.V. program.

Also have been watching Bro. Baxter's programs. I think they have all been very good. And enjoy them very much.

I would like to have Bro. Willeford's sermon of this morning, lesson 38 T.V. Would also like to have copies of several of Bro. Baxter's later sermons.

I am still hopeful of some day seeing a Church of Christ established in English, Indiana.

Are you giving Bible courses now? I have finished one from Lafayette, Indiana. And would like to take more.

Am sending one dollar to help on Radio and T.V. programs. Wish I could do more. Hope you will be able to keep the programs on the air.

Wish I had more of Bro. Willeford's sermons.

I pray that you will be able to keep these programs on the air for many years. May God bless you in your good work.

Yours in Christ
C. M.

Calif.

April 24, 1961

Will you kindly send me information about your belief? I have heard you do not use your Old Testament in your church. Is this true?

I am interested and shall appreciate the *truth* in regard to your belief as my house keeper attends that church.

Respectfully,
Mrs. A. S.

ABC and MBS Networks

By E. R. HARPER

Sermon No. 488

June 4, 1961

My good friends have you ever stopped to ask yourself what it means to surrender to Christ? Would you for a few moments today forget all human prejudices, as we call prejudices, as best you can and for the sake of the truth of this subject, study with me the question, What does it mean to surrender to Christ? It is my firm conviction that most people have not truly surrendered to Him completely, but have surrendered to Him with reservations. These reservations, I am convinced are the reasons why millions this day have not darkened a church building of any kind. They have surrendered to Christ with reservations; not entirely; not completely; not fully from the heart. That kind of surrender, one that is complete, asks no questions, makes no demands upon God before they will become His servant. When they find our God's will they submit to that will, believing God knew best. They do not try to find some way out of obeying the commands of the Lord. They make no excuses for refusing to do as He directs, they say as in the instructions of Eli to Samuel, recorded in the book of I Samuel, chapter 3 and verses 9-10, "And it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak Lord; for thy servant heareth," and in verse 10 it reads, "And the Lord came, and stood and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth." The next morning Eli came to Samuel and asked him, "What is the thing that the Lord hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me." "And Samuel told him every whit."

There were no reservations, either with Eli or Samuel, to whom the Lord had spoken. Heartaches here? Yes, my good people, for God punished the house of Eli because Eli had not directed his sons. Will you listen to the punishment that was to be brought upon Eli? In verses 12-13, we read, "In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin I will also make an end. For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile — your marginal readings say, "blasphemed God" — and he restrained them not." Do you ask me, What did Eli say? In verse 18 Eli simply replied, "It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good." There was no resentment in his heart. God's will was his will. God's commands were his commands. To them he would humbly surrender without reservations for he knew that God knew best.

AARON AND HIS SONS

Another great story showing what it means to completely surrender to the Lord without reservations is found in Leviticus 10:1-7. I shall not read it all, only in part. "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense before the Lord, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them and they died before the Lord." Now I would have you listen to the instruction of Moses, the brother to Aaron as he says, "This is it that the Lord spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And AARON HELD HIS PEACE." Ah, my friends! We speak of a surrendered faith before the Lord! Had this been your two sons, offering this fire unto God, could it have been said of you that you "held your peace"? In verse 6, Moses further commands them, Aaron, Eleazar, and Inthamar, the father and two brothers, "Uncover your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all people; but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord hath kindled." You talk about a surrendered faith without reservation. Here we have found it! A father holding his peace; two brothers and a father not even so much as uncovering their heads out of respect for their own brothers and out of respect for two beloved sons, so dear to a father's heart! I remove my hat as I stand by the grave of my precious daughter who so young in life lay down in death. Just think, what WOULD it be to have the command as given here by Moses to his brother, "Hold your peace, uncover not your head, rend not your clothes though your sons be slain." This my friends is surrender without reservations."

ABRAHAM AND HIS SON

One more example of this kind of surrender faith found in the Old Testament. In Genesis, chapter 22 is found the story of Abraham offering up his son as a burnt offering. It reads in part as follows: "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, "Abraham," and he said, "Behold, here I am." And he said, "Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of." My friends, may I ask you, what would you have done had you been Abraham? Would you have surrendered to God without reservations as did Abraham and prepare to offer your son upon a burning altar? Surrendered faith! A surrender without reservations! Does this generation know what it means to actually surrender to the Lord? Abraham took that son, "prepared the altar, laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son," verses 8-9. Here was a faith that surrendered without reserva-

tions. He demanded nothing of the Lord who gave the command. He did not argue for one moment if this or that were essential. God had spoken, His servant had heard. Now in verse 12 these welcome words came ringing into the ears of this dear old father, who without reservations was obeying the voice of God, when an angel said to him, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything to him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me." The reward for such a surrendered faith was this: God stayed the hand that held the knife, saved the life of his precious boy, prepared the offering for the occasion, and remade with Abraham His promise that "in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." It took surrendered faith without reservations to bring Christ to us through the seed of Abraham, who is called in the New Testament "the father of all them that believe," or as we usually say it, the "father of the faithful," Romans 4:11. Nothing short of surrender without reservations could explain the actions of these great men of God; Eli, Samuel, Aaron, and Abraham under such trying ordeals as they were subjected to upon these occasions. What would your faith do under such trying heartbreaking demands of you from your Lord? What would I do? And yet in our day men argue with God; they dispute with Christ over the requests and commands He asks and requires of us. Do you honestly feel that you have surrendered without reservations to the will of Christ? Are you found at times, or heard to say, Well, that is just a command of God, I do not have to obey that to be saved? Would you say that refusing to obey the commands of the Great Commission, which commission came from the very lips of the Lord Himself, demanding salvation from the Lord, apart from obedience to the Great Commission, would be a surrender without reservation? Think this over prayerfully for I fear in action this is what the world is doing, thinking they have surrendered without reservation.

QUESTIONS ASKED

May I now ask you these questions for your consideration? When in Matthew 28:18-20 the Lord said, "All authority has been given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world"; when the Lord said to His apostles in Mark 16:15-16, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." Suppose his apostles had refused to obey His commands, saying to Him that baptism is not essential to salvation, and that they refused to command the people to be baptized that they might be saved? Would this be surrender without reservation? Or would this be rebellion against Christ? Another question, this one will include you and me. Suppose those to whom the apostles brought

this Great Commission had said to them, "We refuse to be baptized as commanded by the lord; we are going to be saved without it, tell the Lord." Would this have been surrender without reservations, or would this have been surrender with reservations, the reservation being the refusal to be baptized? Remember the Lord commanded it and the command was given that it be carried to every creature, in every nation, in all the world, and that gets you and me. Now honestly, did you surrender without reservations or when you came to be saved, did you demand of the Lord that He forget His commands given for every creature in all the world, and save you without baptism? Now, did you? When we go out to preach this gospel, do we preach it with reservations? Or, do we tell the people in every nation, in all the world just what Christ commanded the apostles to preach to them? Is it preaching with reservations? Is it surrender with reservations? Or, are we preaching without reservations, and surrendering to Christ without reservations? In other words are we saying as did these of old, "Speak Lord; thy servant heareth," or are we today, without realizing it, becoming as were those in Isaiah 30:9-11? It says of them, "This is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, prophesy not unto us right things, speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits: get you out of the way, turn aside out of thy path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us." God said of them, "They will not hear the law of the Lord." This was the beginning of all these sins. It was the beginning of their being cursed by the Lord. Hear Jehovah, verses 12-13, "Wherefore saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word — notice His first rebuke of them was the fact that they despised His word, that is refused to obey it — and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon; therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant." Now hear God's remedy for their sins. In verse 15 God says, "In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and YE WOULD NOT."

Ah, my friends, they of the Old Testament would not hear His word; they would not obey His commands; they asked the preachers of their day to cease to preach to them the truth, the commands of God, but instead, "spake unto them SMOOTH THINGS." This, I fear, is the condition of the world today. It is saying to those of us who come preaching to them, do not speak to us in your great revivals, commanding us to obey the Great Commission of our Lord which says for us to be "baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost"; which declares that "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Speak to us "smooth things"; tell us that we do not have to be baptized; that we do not have to be in the church bought by the blood of Calvary; that if we have to live right to be saved, we are depending on our own works to save us; tell us that we do not have to attend the services of the Lord on the first

day of the week; that we can worship God at home just as acceptably as if we were to assemble with God's people; forget to quote to us Hebrews 10:25 where it says, "forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is"; tell us, as God's messengers, that we do not have to give liberally, willingly, according as God has prospered us, but that we may keep back from the Lord that which belongs to Him. Tell us that we do not have to commune with Him around His table on the first day of the week. Please just tell us that all we have to do to be saved is just believe on the Lord and leave us free to go each his own way. On and on I could go with the commands of God — not commands of men, that the world has rebelled against, declaring them all to be nonessential. This is why the world is in the condition it is in. Men claiming to have surrendered to God, but they have surrendered with reservations which is the same as no surrender at all; not willing to say, "Speak Lord; thy servant heareth." We all know the Lord commanded us to be baptized, if you know your Bible at all. We all know the Lord built the church for man to be a member of it. We all know He has commanded us to live righteously; we all know the Bible commands us to give as God has prospered us. We all know the Lord instituted the Lord's Supper for us to eat with Him. We all know these things, if we know our Bibles at all. Yet, we refuse to do these things, declaring them to be nonessential and the world is told it can be saved without doing one single one of them. Just believe, just trust the Lord. But do we believe Him? Do we trust Him, when we refuse to do as He commands us?

CONCLUSION

In Acts, chapters 9 and 22, we have the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. He said "Lord what will thou have me to do?" He was ready to surrender without reservation. Christ sent Ananias to him and when Ananias commanded Saul to "arise and be baptized and wash away his sins, calling on the name of the Lord," there was not a word of protest against baptism, that his sins be washed away by the blood of Christ. He obeyed immediately. Why? He had surrendered without reservation. This is the record of all who became Christians in Paul's day. Have you tried to surrender with reservations, refusing to be baptized to be saved? Then I beg of you today to do as did these great men of faith in the Old Testament we have studied and as did Saul and all the rest in the New Testament, who, in the New Testament became Christians; come surrendering without reservations. Come saying, "Lord speak, thy servant heareth" and do as your Lord has commanded every creature in all the world. Believe and be baptized that you may be saved by the blood of Christ is my prayer for you in the name of Christ our Lord, who gave these immortal words, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

BELIEVEST THOU THIS?

ABC and MBS Networks

By E. R. HARPER

Sermon No. 489

June 11, 1961

In John, chapter 11 and verses 11-46 is recorded the miracle in which Christ raised Lazarus from the dead. In the course of this conversation with Martha we have these words: "Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here my brother had not died." Jesus said to her, "Thy brother shall rise again." Martha said, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Then Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Martha answered, "Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world."

THE QUESTION

In this conversation is found the question for our lesson today, "Believest thou this?" Today I shall discuss with you many promises, many commands, and a number of examples found in your Bible regarding man's relationship with the Lord, concerning the salvation of man's soul. It is my sincere belief today that our greatest trouble in the field of religion is the sin of unbelief. You will remember that in the book of Hebrews, chapter 12, and verse 1, the writer says, "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." Here the besetting sin is not some particular vice or act of each individual that he is to cease from doing; it is the sin of unbelief that they were to cast off. It was this unbelief that was standing in the way of the Hebrew Christians that Paul was trying to overcome. He had just given that immortal chapter, Hebrews 11, picturing to them the men of faith in the Old Testament and introduced chapter 12 with these words, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin that doth so easily beset us," admonishing them to look to Him who is the author and finisher of their faith. So long as there lived in their hearts any doubt, a question mark of any nature of Christ being the Son of God, resurrected from the dead, and at that time sitting upon the throne of their father David, as the rightful heir to that throne, they would not be faithful unto Him. Paul is here assuring them that Jesus Christ was and is the "author and finisher of their

faith," that Christ "endured the cross, despised the shame" for the "joy that was set before him," the joy of seeing not only Israel but all men saved from sin. He then declares unto them that "he is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." They understood what this means for in Acts chapter 2, and verse 30, Peter had declared to them in this great sermon on Pentecost, "Therefore being a prophet and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; he seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption." But should you be skeptical about this referring to their "sin of unbelief," the writer has this to say in Hebrews chapter 12 and verse 3, "For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." That is, lest your faith die in your hearts. Their sin is the world's sin today; it is the sin of unbelief in God's message to us in the Bible.

We are prone not to believe God's promises made to us in this holy book; we are made to believe that His commands are not essential to our salvation and the examples of how men were saved then are not for us today, that they are outmoded, and some believe we need a modern gospel to fit a modern world. They fail to realize that the basic nature of man has never changed and that the sins of our modern world are the same identical sins in nature as in the days of the apostles when the Bible was written as a guide to man in bringing him to Christ. So I ask you who are listening to me today: Do you believe this? Do you believe that Christ is the Son of God? Do you believe that He was raised from the dead? Do you believe that He sat down at the right hand of God on David's throne, having endured the cross and having despised the shame, looking to the joy of seeing the world surrender their souls to Him in righteousness that they may be saved from sin? Do you honestly?

MATTHEW 1:18-23

In Matthew, chapter 1, verses 18-23 is the story of Mary and Joseph as Joseph was in the act of humbly putting Mary his espoused wife away because she was with child. He did not understand and thought her to be an immoral girl when the angel of the Lord explained to him, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." My friends here is the announcement of the virgin birth of Christ, that is, that He should be born of a virgin.

THE HERALD OF TRUTH MAY BE HEARD OVER THESE ABC AND MBS STATIONS

City	Station	Time	City	Station	Time
ALABAMA			Oxnard	KOXR	
Anniston	WHMA	8:30 p.m.	Redding	KSDA	
Auburn	WAUD	8:30 p.m.	San Bernadino	KCKC	8:30 p.m.
Bay Minette	WBCA	12:30 p.m.	San Diego	KGB	8:30 p.m.
Birmingham	WATV	8:30 p.m.	San Francisco	KGO	8:30 p.m.
Calera	WBYE	5:35 p.m.	Ukiah	KMSL	8:35 a.m.
Clanton	WKLF	2:30 p.m.	COLORADO		
Decatur	WAJF	1:05 p.m.	Denver	KOSI	8:00 a.m.
Dothan	WOOF	12:35 p.m.	CONNECTICUT		
Eufaula	WULA	5:35 p.m.	Bridgeport	WNAB	9:30 p.m.
Flomaton	WTCB	8:30 a.m.	Putnam	WINY	6:35 p.m.
Florence	WOWL	8:30 p.m.	Torrington	WTOR	6:35 p.m.
Foley	WHEP	1:00 p.m.	FLORIDA		
Gadsden	WGAD	8:30 p.m.	Fort Pierce	WARN	7:45 a.m.
Haleyville	WJBB	5:35 p.m.	Jacksonville	WPDQ	8:30 a.m.
Mobile	WABB	8:00 a.m.	Milton	WSRA	
Sylacauga	WFEB	4:35 p.m.	New Smyrna		
Talladega	WJHB	1:00 p.m.	Beach	WSBB	6:35 p.m.
Troy	WTBF	5:35 p.m.	Sebring	WSEB	
ALASKA			Tampa-St.		
Fairbanks	KFRB	9:00 p.m.	Petersburg	WSUN	7:30 a.m.
Sitka	KIFW	9:00 p.m.	Winter Haven	WSIR	5:35 p.m.
		(Wed.)	GEORGIA		
ARIZONA			Bremen	WWCC	8:30 a.m.
Flagstaff	KCLC	8:05 a.m.	Cartersville	WBHF	6:35 p.m.
Sierra Vista	KHFH	1:30 p.m.	Cordele	WMJM	6:35 p.m.
ARKANSAS			Fitzgerald	WBHB	6:35 p.m.
Berryville	KTCN	7:45 a.m.	Griffin	WKEU	8:05 a.m.
Blytheville	KLCN	8:30 a.m.	Hinesville	WGML	1:30 p.m.
Camden	KAMD	5:35 p.m.	La Grange	WLAG	9:00 a.m.
Corning	KCCB	1:30 p.m.	Savannah	WBYG	5:35 p.m.
Helena	KFFA	5:35 p.m.	Rome	WLAQ	9:30 p.m.
Jonesboro	KBTM	5:35 p.m.	Thomson	WTWA	6:35 p.m.
Little Rock	KARK	5:30 p.m.	West Point	WRLD	9:30 p.m.
McGehee	KVSA	9:00 a.m.	IDAHO		
Prescott	KTPA		Albion	KMVC	
Siloam Springs	KUOA	5:35 p.m.	Idaho Falls	KID	8:00 a.m.
CALIFORNIA			Lewiston	KOZE	8:30 p.m.
Bakersfield	KMAP		Moscow	KPRL	3:35 p.m.
Chico	KPAY	7:35 p.m.	Nampa	KFXD	1:30 p.m.
Los Angeles	KABC	8:00 p.m.	Rupert	KAYT	9:00 a.m.
Napa	KVON	3:35 p.m.			
Needles	KSFE	7:00 a.m.			
		(Wed.)			

THE HERALD OF TRUTH MAY BE HEARD OVER THESE ABC AND MBS STATIONS

City	Station	Time	City	Station	Time
INDIANA			Greenwood	WABG	4:30 p.m.
Boonville	WBNL	5:35 p.m.	Jackson	WJDX	9:30 p.m.
Lafayette	WASK	9:05 a.m.	Natchez	WNAT	2:00 p.m.
North Vernon	WOCH	8:30 a.m.	Vicksburg	WQBC	5:35 p.m.
Vincennes	WAOV	5:35 p.m.	MISSOURI		
IOWA			Cape		
Fort Dodge	KVFD	8:05 a.m.	Girardeau	KFVS	7:30 a.m.
KENTUCKY			Clinton	KDKD	
Frankfort	WFKY	6:35 p.m.	Dexter	KDEX	9:00 a.m.
Henderson	WSON	7:00 a.m.	Joplin	WMBH	4:35 p.m.
Hopkinsville	WKOA	7:15 a.m.	Kansas City	KCMO	8:30 a.m.
Madisonville	WFMW	5:35 p.m.	Rolla	KTTR	1:00 p.m.
Mayfield	WNGO	2:30 p.m.	St. Louis	KXEN	8:30 a.m.
Paducah	WPAD	8:30 a.m.	MONTANA		
Paintsville	WSIP	6:35 p.m.	Anaconda	KANA	8:05 a.m.
Pikesville	WPKE	6:35 p.m.	Lewistown	KXLO	4:30 p.m.
Somerset	WSFC	6:35 p.m.	Wolf Point	KVCK	3:35 p.m.
LOUISIANA			NEBRASKA		
Lake Charles	KLOV		Kearney	KGFV	8:05 a.m.
Shreveport	KRMD	8:30 p.m.	McCook	KBRL	5:35 p.m.
Winfield	WVCL	8:00 a.m.	Omaha	KMEO	8:00 a.m.
MARYLAND			Scottsbluff	KNEB	9:00 a.m.
Hagerstown	WJEJ	9 30 p.m.	NEVADA		
MASSACHUSETTS			Reno	KBET	8:30 p.m.
Fall River	WALE	6:35 p.m.	NEW HAMPSHIRE		
Gardner	WGAW	6:35 p.m.	Keene	WKNE	1:05 p.m.
MICHIGAN			Nasha-		
Detroit	WXYZ	10:00 p.m.	Manchester	WSMN	9:30 p.m.
Escanaba	WDBC	8:30 p.m.	Portsmouth	WBBX	8:00 a.m.
Flint	WTRX	9:30 p.m.	NEW MEXICO		
Ludington	WKLA	9:30 p.m.	Artesia	KSVP	6:35 p.m.
Muskegon	WKBZ	9:30 p.m.	Roswell	KGFL	4:35 p.m.
MINNESOTA			Silver City	KSIL	4:35 p.m.
Albert Lea	KATE	8:30 p.m.	NEW YORK		
Duluth	WQMN	5:35 p.m.	Corning	WCLI	6:35 p.m.
Eveleth	WEVE	5:35 p.m.	Malone	WICY	6:35 p.m.
MISSISSIPPI			Massena	WMSA	9:30 p.m.
Centerville	WGLC	8:00 a.m.	New York	WABC	9:30 p.m.
Clarksdale	WROX	5:35 p.m.	Saranac Lake	WNBZ	9:30 p.m.
Greenville	WJPR	5:35 p.m.			

THE HERALD OF TRUTH MAY BE HEARD OVER THESE ABC AND MBS STATIONS

City	Station	Time	City	Station	Time
NORTH CAROLINA			Johnstown	WCRO	8:00 a.m.
Belmont	WCGC	6:35 p.m.	Lock Haven	WBPZ	6:35 p.m.
Burlington	WBBB	6:35 p.m.	Milton	WMLP	1:00 p.m.
Durham	WTIK	9:30 p.m.			(Sat.)
Gastonia	WGNC	9:30 p.m.	St. Mary's	WKBI	6:35 p.m.
Goldsboro	WFMC	1:00 p.m.	Scranton	WICK	9:35 p.m.
Hender-			Tyrone-		
sonville	WHKP	2:30 p.m.	Altoona	WTRN	7:35 a.m.
Lenoir	WJRI	5:35 p.m.	Washington	WJPA	8:35 a.m.
Mt. Airy	WSYD	5:35 p.m.	Wellsboro	WNBT	6:35 p.m.
Reidsville	WFRC	9:30 p.m.	Wilkes Barre	WILK	9:30 p.m.
Roanoke			Williamsport	WMPT	9:30 p.m.
Rapids	WCBT	6:35 p.m.	SOUTH CAROLINA		
Rocky Mount	WEED	9:30 p.m.	Bennettsville	WBSC	6:35 p.m.
Wilson	WGTM	6:35 p.m.	Charleston	WOKE	4:35 p.m.
NORTH DAKOTA			Georgetown	WGTM	6:35 p.m.
Devils Lake	KDLR	4:35 p.m.	Hartsville	WHSC	5:35 p.m.
Grand Forks	KILO	1:00 p.m.	Orangeburg	WDIX	9:30 p.m.
Jamestown	KEYJ	5:35 p.m.	Rock Hill	WRHI	6:35 p.m.
Minot	KLPM	5:35 p.m.	SOUTH DAKOTA		
Oakes	KEYD	4:35 p.m.	Huron	KIJV	5:35 p.m.
Valley City	KOVC	4:35 p.m.	Mitchell	KORN	4:35 p.m.
OHIO			Watertown	KWAT	5:35 p.m.
Dover	WJER	7:00 p.m.	TENNESSEE		
Ironton	WIRO	6:35 p.m.	Athens	WLAR	5:35 p.m.
OKLAHOMA			Columbia	WKRM	1:30 p.m.
Ardmore	KVSO	8:30 p.m.	Dayton	WDNT	4:30 p.m.
Enid	KCRC	8:30 p.m.	Fayetteville	WEKR	6:35 p.m.
Lawton	KSWO	9:05 p.m.	Jackson	WTJS	8:30 p.m.
McAlister	KNED	1:30 p.m.	Johnson City	WETB	8:05 a.m.
Miami	KGLC	5:35 p.m.	Lexington	WDXL	1:00 p.m.
Poteau	KLCO	1:00 p.m.	Livingston	WLIV	5:35 p.m.
Tulsa	KTUL	8:30 a.m.	McMinnville	WBMC	9:00 a.m.
Wewoka	KWSH	8:30 p.m.	Manchester	WMSR	
OREGON			Morristown	WCRK	9:35 p.m.
Astoria	KAST	3:35 p.m.	Murfreesboro	WGNS	9:00 a.m.
Coos Bay	KOOS	8:30 p.m.	Nashville	WSIX	9:30 p.m.
Coquille	KWRO	8:30 a.m.	Oak Ridge	WATO	9:00 a.m.
Eugene	KASH	6:30 p.m.	Onedia	WBNT	5:35 p.m.
Lakeview	KQIK	8:30 a.m.	TEXAS		
PENNSYLVANIA			Abilene	KRBC	8:15 a.m.
Altoona	WRTA	9:30 p.m.	Amarillo	KGNC	1:05 p.m.
Coatsville	WCOJ	5:30 p.m.	Bay City	KIOX	5:35 p.m.
Huntington	WHUN	9:30 a.m.	Big Spring	KBST	6:30 p.m.
			Borger	KHUZ	4:35 p.m.

THE HERALD OF TRUTH MAY BE HEARD OVER THESE ABC AND MBS STATIONS

City	Station	Time	City	Station	Time
Brownwood	KBWD	5:35 p.m.	Seattle	KTW	9:30 p.m.
Bryan	KCRA	5:35 p.m.	Tacoma	KLAY	
Clarksville	KCAR	8:30 a.m.	Walla Walla	KTEL	8:30 p.m.
Dallas	KSKY	2:05 p.m.	Wenatchee	KUEN	10:15 a.m.
Eagle Pass	KEPS	9:05 a.m.			
Graham	KSWA	4:30 p.m.			
Huntsville	KSAM	6:00 p.m.			
Killeen	KLEN	5:35 p.m.			
Liberty	KWDL				
Littlefield	KZZZ				
Longview	KFRO	8:30 p.m.			
Midland	KCRS	1:30 p.m.			
Monahans	KVKM	4:35 p.m.			
Nacodoches	KEEE	8:30 p.m.			
Pampa	KHHH				
Pampa	KPDN	5:35 p.m.			
Pleasanton	KBOP	8:30 p.m.			
Rosenburg	KFRD	9:00 a.m.			
San Antonio	KMAC	8:30 p.m.			
Sherman	KTXO	9:30 a.m.			
Sherman-					
Denison	KRRV	5:35 p.m.			
Texarkana	KCMC	8:30 p.m.			
UTAH					
Provo	KIXX	8:30 a.m.			
VERMONT					
Brattleboro	WKVT	1:05 p.m.			
VIRGINIA					
Bristol	WFHG	6:35 p.m.			
Culpeper	WCVA	6:35 p.m.			
Fredricksburg	WFVA	8:30 a.m.			
Lynchburg	WLVA	9:30 p.m.			
Radford	WRAD				
Richmond	WMBG	9:30 p.m.			
Waynesboro	WAYB	6:35 p.m.			
WASHINGTON					
Centralia-					
Chehalis	KELA	3:35 p.m.			
Kennewick	KPKW	8:30 p.m.			
Mt. Vernon	KBRC	9:30 a.m.			
Omak	KOMW	9:15 a.m.			

This list is not 100% correct due to frequent changes.

All times are Sunday unless otherwise indicated.

Check your local newspaper or radio station for times not listed.

Do you ask what it means here by a virgin? One who has never known a man. To deny this is to deny the foundation upon which rests the entirety of Christianity. If Christ be not "virgin born" then all the hopes and dreams of salvation by the blood of Calvary fade from the hopes of man and he goes to his grave wrapped in the robes of eternal darkness. In the language of our Savior, I ask you, "Believest thou this?" The virgin birth of Christ is a must if we are to be saved, for to deny this is to deny the basis for all our precious promises in Christ.

HIS GREAT COMMISSION

Now this Son, miraculously begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of this virgin, grew to be of full age. At about 30 years of age we see Him coming to be baptized of John in Jordan, Matthew, chapter 3. When He was baptized it was then the heavens broke forth with the voice of God saying "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Christ now begins His life's mission, soon to be climaxed upon the cross of Calvary, dying for the sins of the world. But before He left this world, after His resurrection, He gave these orders (I wonder if we believe them?): In Mark 16:15,16 Christ said to His disciples, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. But he that believeth not shall be damned." Here the Lord promised salvation to the baptized believer only. Believest thou this? Do you believe Mark 16:16 to be essential to man's salvation as given here by the Lord? Remember this was to "every creature in all the world" and that includes all of us today. In Matthew 28:18-20, Christ said: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (or Holy Spirit). Do you believe this is essential today? Here, every nation on earth was to be baptized. In Mark 16:15 this same Christ said "every creature in all the world." Believest thou this? If men have faith in this virgin born Son of God, then why not believe His world-wide orders which He commanded to be preached to every creature, in every nation, in all our world? In Luke 24:46 this same virgin-born Son declared, "And he (that is Christ) said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead in the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem."

QUESTION?

Now I ask again the question: Believest thou these things? Do you believe that repentance and remission of sins in the name of Christ were to begin after His resurrection? Do you believe that this was to begin in the city of Jerusalem? If not, why do you not believe it? If the world believes these orders given by the Lord Himself

after His resurrection, then why does the religious world, much of it, try to go back to Adam, back to Abraham, back to Sinal, back to John the Baptist, back to the personal ministry of Christ, yea many of them back to before the foundation of the world, to establish the beginning of the plan of salvation in the name of this virgin-born Savior of the world? Your Bible plainly says it was to begin after His resurrection; that it was to begin in Jerusalem, and Peter in Acts 11:15 called the day when the Spirit fell on them, which was in Jerusalem, on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of the Lord, the beginning. For, said he, "The Holy Spirit fell on them" — the Gentiles at Cornelius' house, Acts 10 — "as on us at the beginning." Yes, I ask of you preachers listening to me today: Believest thou this? If we do not, then why not? For, this is what your Bible plainly says. Do you see now what I meant when I said our sin today is the same sin as in the days of the writing of the Bible when in Hebrews 12:1, the writer says, "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us," which I pointed out was then, and is now, the sin of unbelief in the Christ as the virgin-born Son of God and the Bible, His revelation to man, as essential to man's salvation. You know and I know that much of the religious world is teaching that no man has to obey all of the Great Commission given for every creature in all the world; that he can be saved and never be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; that baptism, though given that every accountable human being in all the world may obey it, that not one human being has to obey this command of this Son, born to Mary, begotten by the Holy Spirit. Why does the world so believe and so teach? Because of this sin of unbelief; they believe it not to be essential though Christ gave it in person. Yes, I ask again. Why give the Great Commission to every creature in all the world if He did not mean it? Why command that it be preached to every creature, in all the world, in every nation if it be not essential to the salvation of man? It was man's salvation He was discussing. He said that "Repentance and remission of sins might be preached to all nations in his name" and "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Here He was speaking pointedly and unmistakably of remission of sins and of salvation in this command that was to go to every creature in all the world. Believest thou this? If not then listen to the Master's words again in this world-wide commission that is to every creature, "He that believeth not shall be damned," Mark 16:16. Why shall he be damned? For the same reason those of Hebrews 12:1-6 would be lost, if they do not believe these commands and trust Christ's promises they will not believe and be baptized that they may be saved. They shall be turned away to a perverted gospel as said Paul in Galatians 1:7 and having obeyed a perverted gospel be lost or maybe die rejecting the virgin birth of Christ completely. Friends, why not submit to the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, 16, and Luke 24:45 and trust the rest to Him who made the promises?

EXAMPLES

Having now studied the commands and the promises, let us examine some of the examples given to show us how to carry out the commands of the Great Commission.

ACTS 2

In Acts, chapter 2 and verse 38, when asked the question in verse 37, "What shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Verse 41 says, "They that gladly received his word were baptized: and there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls." Verse 47 says, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Here they received remission of sins, salvation and the Lord added them to His church. The example fits perfectly the commands of the Great Commission given by the Lord in Matthew, Mark, and Luke is already quoted. Here the promises were identical with the promises found in this world-wide commission. The example coincides perfectly with the commands and promises given by the Lord. Believest thou this?

ACTS 9:22

In Acts chapter 9:22, we have the example of Saul's conversion. He met the Lord as recorded in Acts 9. He believed the Lord and immediately went to the house where the Lord directed him that he might be told what he must do. Ananias came to him and here is the command given and the promise made. Watch it. "Why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Again the example fits perfectly the commands and promises of the Great Commission. He had to believe. His actions for three days and nights demonstrated his penitent heart, and he was baptized; all found given in the Great Commission and here was the promise — sins washed away or forgiven.

CORINTH-EPHESUS-ROME-COLOSSÉ

The Corinthians, as recorded in Acts 18:8 "believed and were baptized." Paul called them saved in I Corinthians 15:1-4. In Ephesus, Acts 19:1-10, they also believed and were baptized. They were called saints of God, Ephesians 1: verse 1. In Rome they also had believed, had repented, and had been buried with the Lord in baptism. In Colosse they were "buried with him in baptism, wherein also they were risen with him." The Galatians had been baptized into Christ. All these were saved. To know this is true, read Romans chapters 1 through 8, Colossians 2:12, and Galatians 3:25-27. Here again the examples are in perfect harmony with the commands, and the promises

of the Great Commission as found in Matthew 28:10-20, Mark 16:15,16 and Luke 24:46. Believest thou these things? You will recall that in the beginning I suggested we would study many commands, promises and examples showing man's relationship with the Lord in the salvation of his soul. One thing that has run true through all these commands. All had to believe in this Christ of Calvary. All had to repent of their sins, and with faith in Christ as God's Son, they all were baptized that they might be saved. Friends, why not believe these things?

CONCLUSION

As I close I ask you in the words of our subject, Believest thou this? This is what your Bible says. This is the way every example is recorded and remember that the writer of Hebrews 5:9 says Christ "became the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him." It is your soul. It is the soul of your child, therefore, I beg of you to obey the commands of the Lord in His Great Commission which is to every creature in all the world as Christ commands us to believe and be baptized, and then trust the Lord to make good His promise of salvation to all who will obey Him. May the Lord bless you and keep you is my prayer in the name of Christ our blessed Lord, praying that you believe these things preserved by heaven for us all in the Holy Book — the Bible. This just can't be wrong. It is in your Bible!



Dear Brother Baxter:

I want to tell you how much I enjoy your TV programs, "The Herald of Truth." They are a wonderful blessing. I especially remember the message you gave on, "In God We Trust." I would like very much to have a copy of that message if it is possible.

I would like to enroll in your Bible correspondence course. I would also like to have the following booklets: "Understanding The Bible," "The Old Paths," "Come Ye Out From Among Them."

Thank you very much,

Yours truly,
A. D. R.
1106 23rd
Wichita Falls, Texas

SHEPHERDS KNOW THY SHEEP

ABC and MBS Networks

By E. R. HARPER

Sermon No. 490

June 18, 1961

The lesson today is one fraught with grave consequences to that great group of men who have assumed the duties and obligations of "Shepherds over the Lord's sheep." In John, chapter 10, verses 11-15, we have this most profound description of the characteristics of a true shepherd. It reads as follows: "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd layeth down his life for the sheep. He that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, beholdeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep." A greater treatise, in fewer words, has never been written describing the true nature of a real shepherd of God's sheep. This studied by those claiming to be shepherds over God's heritage, over His sheep, and we lose fewer sheep to the hirelings of this world.

Christ says, "I am the good shepherd." This implies in terms unmistakable that there are false shepherds, those who are not good, whose sole aim is not the care and protection of the sheep. In connection with this reading I should love to read from the pen of the apostle Peter. In I Peter 5:1-4 we read: "The elders therefore among you I exhort, who am a fellow-elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, who am also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Tend the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight, not of constraint, but willingly, according to the will of God; nor yet for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as lording it over the charge allotted to you, but making yourselves ensamples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd shall be manifested, ye shall receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away." In principle these two passages are so beautifully expressive of the same great spirit of those who are to guide the affairs of the Lord.

UNDERSHEPHERDS

In this reading Peter refers to Christ as the "chief Shepherd." This can only mean that all others are "under-shepherds"—that is shepherds under Christ. But let us never forget that these "under-shepherds" are to imitate the chief Shepherd; they are not to be hirelings who would allow the wolves to enter this flock and snatch some away and scatter the rest. Our question is, Do you know your sheep? Yours, in the sense that you are appointed to care for them? Are you truly a good and tried shepherd? Or, have you taken upon you this serious obligation with little or no preparation? How are you fulfilling the most

profound and serious obligation of your entire life? Guarding the souls of men that they be not lost in a Devil's hell! This you had better ponder well if you are to continue as a shepherd.

KNOW THY SHEEP

The first principle I shall discuss just now is the statement by the Lord, in verse 14 where Christ say, "I known mine own, and mine own know me." How could Christ have been a good shepherd if He had not known His own sheep? If He were not capable of distinguishing His sheep from others, how could He have looked after them as described in this great chapter? Now I ask you who claim to be shepherds over the Lord's sheep, do you know your sheep? Do they know you? He did not just mean that He recognized them when He saw them in the fold but that He was acquainted with their needs.

ELDERS IN EVERY CHURCH

You may be ready to ask, what do you mean by having shepherds over the Lord's sheep? There are various terms in the Bible by which these men are designated, each term signifying some specific characteristic essential to his being a "good shepherd." For instance in Acts 14:23 we read, "And when they had appointed for them elders in every church and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they had believed." In Titus 1:5, Paul says to Titus, "For this cause I felt thee in Crete, that thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting, and appoint elders in every city, as I gave thee charge." Here we find that as they found men who met the stipulated qualifications laid down in I Timothy, chapter 3, and Titus, chapter 1, that in every church in every city they were to have a plurality of elders. The Lord realized that no one man could do all that is required in directing a church. But, remarks one, this says "elders" and your lesson is concerning "shepherds" and their obligations. This is why it is so vitally important that we understand that in our Bible there is no difference in the men who are to serve as "shepherds, bishops, overseers, pastors, or elders." They are all the same men fulfilling the same functions in the church of the Lord.

That you may now see that elders and shepherds are understood as the same men, read with me I Peter 5. In verse 1, Peter says, "The elders therefore among you I exhort, who am a fellow-elder," and then in verse 4 he says, "and when the chief Shepherd shall appear ye [that is you elders] shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away," showing that Peter regarded Christ as the chief Shepherd while they were "under-shepherds." If this be not its meaning, then why the expression, "when the chief Shepherd appears"? Here the same men were regarded by your Bible as both elders and shepherds. But that we may see that these elders, these shepherds, were likewise bishops I call your attention to this fact: in I Timothy chapter 3, and verse 1, it reads, "Faithful is the saying, If a man seeketh the office of a bishop he desireth a good work." That you may know that this bishop is the same as

an elder I call to your attention this fact: In I Timothy and in Titus 1, the qualifications for a bishop and the qualifications for an elder are the same. Since the word "pastor" means "shepherd" then the elders are "the pastors, the bishops, and the shepherds" of the sheep. Another vital truth is this; there was to be a plurality of elders in every church; not any one of them on earth was to be a chief pastor, bishop or shepherd over others. They were limited to local congregations only, with no one man among them having authority over another or over a group of shepherds. And another thing, they were all to be married men, husbands of one wife (I Timothy 3:2).

ARE YOU A GOOD SHEPHERD?

With this clearly before us now, that shepherds, pastors, elders and bishops are all the same, with no titled distinctions among them, the one over the other, or over a group of congregations, and all married men, we are now ready to ask those of you who are serving in such capacity or who anticipate serving as such in the near future, are you qualified to serve in this most honored position in the Lord's church?

LEADER OF MEN

Another thing, Christ the chief Shepherd did not drive His sheep; He led His sheep. He did not whip His sheep, but went before them showing them the way. This is what Peter meant when he said "being ensamples to the flock." The sheep watch their shepherd as he walks through the valley of the shadow of death, he walks without fear and they follow him as trustingly as your little boy jumped into your arms as outstretched to him they were when you said, "Jump son, and daddy will catch you." He trusted you, believed in you, and in your arms outstretched to him he felt no fear of harm. Just so it should be with you if you are a true shepherd of God's children. When they see you walk before them they should not be afraid, but follow in perfect confidence, knowing that you are truly what you claim to be, a true shepherd and not a hireling who would lead them in the wrong paths, into pastures where they should not graze. Are you a leader? Or do you drive? Or are you neither?

WILL FEED THE SHEEP

Christ the true Shepherd fed His sheep. He said, "I am the door; by me if any man enter, he shall be saved and shall go in and out, and find pasture." It was His to find pasture where they might feed upon those things that were good, the things of this life that would make them truly His sheep. The shepherds of His flock today are obligated to find pastures green where His sheep may eat and live, not for self alone, but for Christ, that others may be brought to Calvary, perfected in holiness robed in the righteousness of the Lord. This is what Paul meant when in Acts 20:28 he said to the elders at Ephesus, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy

Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God which He hath purchased with his own blood." This, a hireling will not do. This, to be obeyed, will have to be done by men who know the Bible, who are capable of imparting its knowledge to those over whom they serve as shepherds. Knowing this to be an obligation of yours, then to refuse to do this, to fail in your obligation to prepare yourself that you may feed the flock over which you are an under-shepherd, and by not preparing yourselves, allow them to be caught by the wolf, you play the role of the "hireling" and will be called upon in the day of reckoning to answer for your evil doings. Do you say, Brother Harper, this is not an evil act, it is but carelessness upon the part of good men. Will you listen to the prophet Jeremiah in chapter 23, verses 1, 2, and 4: "Woe be unto the pastors [remember they are shepherds] that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord . . . And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord." If ever you have doubted the seriousness of the place you occupy as "pastors," which the prophet here called shepherds, surely that doubt has now been dispelled. Because these false shepherds would not visit them, would not "feed my people," said the Lord, I will give them other shepherds who will feed them that they may no longer fear nor go lacking for the protection and care that is to be provided for them by the shepherds of God's people.

TENDS HIS SHEEP

When I was a boy I farmed. They would ask us, "How much land are you tending this year?" To "tend" means to look after, to care for, to supply with every need, to nurture. In John 21, verses 15-17, Christ said to John twice, "If you love me, feed my sheep," and once, verse 16 He said "Tend my sheep." Two different words are used here in the original language; one means to feed, the other to "tend," that is to take care of, guide, govern, and protect His sheep. Christ said of Himself in John chapter 10, verses 10, 11 and 15. The good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly . . . I lay down my life for the sheep." Yes, the good Shepherd came that He might tend His sheep; that He might give them pastures green, that He might "give them life, abundant life"; that He might "give His life for them" even to the laying down of His life that they might live. This is what it takes to make a good shepherd. These are the primary duties of elders, bishops, pastors, shepherds over the church of the Lord today. To do all this Christ had to "know his sheep." For you as shepherds of God's flock to function as true shepherds you must likewise know your flock, else how can you tend them? How can you feed them? How can you defend, look after and protect them? How can you in the great day of reck-

oning give an account of the sheep under your protection as a true shepherd unless you know at least two things: The sheep that are under you, and what they need as food to eat?

CONCLUSION

Of course to be a true shepherd it must be over the true church of the Lord. That church began in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost after Christ arose from the dead, Acts, chapter 2. Here Peter and the eleven preached to this great crowd assembled. Peter's sermon is recorded. His sermon had brought conviction to their hearts. They asked, "What shall we do?" Peter answered by saying, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Verse 47 says, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." It is therefore this baptized group of penitent believers that became this church, this flock, the sheep over which qualified men are to become shepherds to direct them. No wonder the Holy Spirit laid down such strict qualifications in I Timothy chapter 3, and Titus chapter 1, for those who would assume this grave responsibility of bringing safely home at the close of the day the sheep over which they have been made overseers. To the faithful shepherd, this is your reward: "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." How wonderful here to lead and direct the souls of men, women, boys and girls in that way of life that makes our homes beautiful and happy and when over there you can truthfully say to the Lord, "They are all safely guided into the heavenly fold, all safe and accounted for." May God bless you shepherds who are truly guiding the church to greater things. To you who are outside this sheep-fold, will you not come believing in Christ the true Shepherd, repent of your sins, and be baptized as commanded by Him who is our good Shepherd, trusting Him for the salvation of your precious soul, is my prayer in His blessed and holy name. Yes, I ask: Shepherds, do you know your sheep?



Spearman, Tex.

Dear Bro. Nichols:

How are you? The article you had as a Special Editorial — about the five loaves and two fishes — should awaken all of us to our responsibility as Christians — hope I can continue to help in some amount.

It is the greatest work that has been done to teach the whole world, in my estimation.

In Christian love
Mrs. R. B. A.

WHAT MEAN THESE SCRIPTURES?

ABC and MBS Networks

By E. R. HARPER

Radio Sermon No. 491

June 25, 1961

Recently I received a letter with this statement in it: "There is not even any hint in the scriptures that would lead anyone to believe that Christ's kingdom has come." With this statement before us, knowing that much of the religious world believes that the kingdom promised to Christ has never been set up and will not be until His second coming, I decided upon the question for today, "What Mean These Scriptures?" If it be true that the kingdom was not set up, but postponed until His coming, then we have some scriptures that are rather empty in meaning and quite out of place, it seems to me. May I study some of them with you today, and then ask ourselves the question, If Christ's kingdom has not been set up then "What Mean These Scriptures?"

BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW 3

In Matthew, chapter 3, verse 1, your Bible reads, "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." In Mark 1:15 Christ, Himself speaking, says, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." In Luke 10:9 Christ said, "The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." In Luke chapter 11, verse 20, Christ said, "But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you." In Luke 21, verses 29-33, we have this reading, our Savior is speaking, "Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled." I ask this question, What kingdom is this about which John and Christ are speaking if it be not the kingdom promised to Christ, the seed of David, in the Old Testament?

Just what do they mean by the expression "is at hand"? Whatever it meant with "summer is nigh at hand," He meant by the expression, "Know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." It was so near that Christ said, "This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled." Those then living would see this promise come true before their death.

KINGDOM NOT BEFORE THE CROSS

In Luke 12:31-32, Christ said, "But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock;

WHAT MEAN THESE SCRIPTURES?

Page 29

for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." They did not have it then, but to this "little flock" it was to be given! That "little flock" has long since ceased to exist. Did Christ deceive them?

In Mark 15:43 and Luke 23:50-51, your Bible reads, "Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counselor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus." This I press because there is also an idea in the religious world that the kingdom was set up during the personal ministry of Christ, before His death. If this be true then this man who was close enough to the Lord to beg His body without fear, did not know it. Again in Luke 23:39-43 is the account of the crucifixion of the thieves with the Lord. One of them who has become most popular with the religious world made this simple request of the Lord: "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." He did not know it, if the kingdom were already set up.

CHRIST SPEAKS

We shall now let Christ speak for this kingdom. In Luke 22, verses 15-18 is an unanswerable statement from the Lord Himself concerning the kingdom's not being established before the cross: "With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: for I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God . . . Take this, and divide it among yourselves: for I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come." "Shall come" is positively future. Here Christ, in the shadow of the cross states it is not set up; the thief of the cross understands that Christ has not "come into his kingdom" and Joseph was "waiting for the kingdom."

SUMMATION

Now from Matthew 3 to the Cross of Calvary we have the promise that the kingdom was "at hand"; that the "time was fulfilled"; that it has "come nigh"; that it was not set before the cross; yet it was to be established "before that generation passed away." This being true, we must look for its establishment soon after Calvary. In Acts 1:6 the apostles asked the Lord this question: "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" If the kingdom had been set up before this, they did not know it. Now to this question asked of Him, Christ answered, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Just here is a wonderful time to quote the words of the Savior found in Mark 9:1, where He has this to say, "Verily I say unto you, that there be some of you standing here that shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God

come with power. Again that generation was not to pass until they had seen the kingdom of God come. It was to come with power, says Christ, here in Mark 9:1. The power should come, says Christ, with the sending of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:8, just quoted to you. All I now have to do is to find when and where the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and I have established the place and the time of the establishment of this kingdom that was "at hand"; and to find the fulfillment of the time to which Christ referred in Mark 1:15 where He said "The time is fulfilled; and the kingdom of God is at hand."

ACTS 2:14 — WATCH THE PICTURE CHANGE

Turn with me now to Acts, chapter 2 and verses 1-4. It reads as follows, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Here, upon Pentecost, in Jerusalem, the Spirit came upon them. With the coming of the Spirit was to come the power and with the coming of the power was to come the kingdom. This was during "this generation." Some of them were still living; that generation had not passed away. This is it!

READING CHANGES

Now watch the picture change regarding the kingdom. Up until now, the prophets in II Samuel 12:13, Psalms 110:1-5, Isaiah 9:6-7, Daniel 2:44, all foretold of a kingdom that the God of heaven would set up, which kingdom should never be destroyed, that was to be given to the seed of David, which is admitted to be the Christ; and John the Baptist, and Christ Himself declared that the kingdom spoken of in times past was now "at hand"; Joseph of Arimathea was waiting for the kingdom, the Thief on the Cross was asking to be remembered when Christ entered His kingdom; and after the resurrection the apostles are asking if this is the time that He is to "restore again the kingdom to Israel." No more shall we read of such prophecies as these of the Old Testament, nor shall we read of such promises of the kingdom's being "at hand," nor shall we read of such questions as, "Wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom again to Israel?" We shall read of the kingdom's actually being here. Then tell me that there is not even a "hint of the kingdom's having come"!

THE SCRIPTURES

We begin now with Acts chapter 2 and verse 30, where it is speaking of David in these words, "Therefore being a prophet and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit

of his loins . . . he would raise up Christ to sit on his — that is David's — throne." Notice, "He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ." Christ therefore was "raised to sit on David's throne." He was and is the fulfillment of all those prophecies in the Old Testament and of the promises from Matthew, chapter 3 through to Acts, chapter 2. If He is not, then please tell me who is? If this is not the kingdom spoken of by the prophets, if it is not the kingdom referred to by John the Baptist, Christ, Joseph, and the thief, then pray tell me; What kingdom is this? Who foretold of its being set up? No hint that Christ's kingdom has come. Why friends, Christ was even "raised to sit on David's throne" and verse 36 declares Him to be both Lord and Christ." Lord the ruler, and Christ, God's anointed. Here was the beginning of the kingdom of Christ on David's throne and Christ has been on that throne from Pentecost until now, and He will be until the end of time (I Corinthians 15:24). But again in Acts 8:12 we read: "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." In Colossians 1:12 your Bible reads: "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us — that is Paul and the Colossians — into the kingdom of His dear Son." Into what? "Into the kingdom of his dear Son." No hint of the kingdom having come when they had been translated into it at that time. The writer of Hebrews 12, verse 28 said to the Hebrew Christians then living, that generation spoken of by the Lord should not pass away until they saw the kingdom come with power, to them He said, "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." Their serving Him in that generation with grace in reverence and fear all depended upon their having received this kingdom which cannot be moved. Tell me the kingdom of Christ is not here!

REVELATION SPEAKS

Let us now come to the closing book of your Bible and hear John say in Revelation 1:9, "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ." To whom did he write this? To the seven churches in Asia. Therefore, we have proven that those of Acts 2; those of Acts 8:12; Paul and those of Colossians 1:13; the Hebrew Christians of Hebrews 10; and now John and the seven churches of Asia were all in the kingdom, and it specifically says the "kingdom of God's dear Son" and "in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ." No hint of this kingdom's having come. Friends, what more can we want than these? I ask again if the kingdom promised in the Old Testament; if the kingdom spoken of by John the Baptist and Christ be not this king-

dom mentioned from Acts 2, to the closing book of the Bible, then "What Mean These Scriptures" to which you have listened?

CONCLUSION

We have now traced the kingdom in prophecy from II Samuel 7, to Isaiah 9, Daniel 2:24, on through Revelation, and we find thousands in the kingdom during the days of the apostles. We found that that generation did not pass away until the kingdom actually came.

ITS DESTINY

That we may know the final destiny of this kingdom, I read to you from I Corinthians 15:24, "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power." Christ was and is the king, for in I Timothy 6:15 and Revelation 17:14, He is plainly declared to be "King of kings" and Lord of lords." Here in I Corinthians 15:24 at His second coming, He delivers the kingdom up to God and it is the end.

HOW ENTER THIS KINGDOM?

In John 3:3-5 Christ tells us plainly, "I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of heaven" and "I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Since this kingdom is to be delivered up to God, the Father; since to enter this kingdom Christ plainly declares we must be "born of water and the Spirit" we had better think seriously before we undertake to remove "water" from John 3:5. We had better know what we are doing and that it is not done from prejudice, for our children's souls are to be accounted for. Water in John 3:5 just simply means water, and in baptism is the only place we find water in the scheme of redemption. You will notice that everyone in Acts 2, Acts 8, Colossians 1, and Revelation 1 were all baptized. Yes, the Hebrew Christians had their "bodies washed with pure water," (Hebrews 10:22). To enter this kingdom, therefore, man has to believe in Christ, this King, has to repent of his sin, and with faith in Christ as God's Son, he must be baptized, as everyone of these had to do. You who claim to be "born again," may I ask, "Did you miss the kingdom when you were born again?" If the kingdom be not here now and will not be until the second coming of Christ, then the "New Birth" will also have to be postponed until His second coming, for it puts you into the kingdom. Yes I say, "Men better think about what they are doing before they destroy water in John 3:5 for the Lord placed it there. "No hint of the kingdom"? My good people, "What mean these scriptures" if the kingdom be not here? Why the New Birth? May God bless you to believe and be baptized as were these, that you may be citizens of the kingdom of Christ born again as were these of our lesson today, is my prayer for you in the name of Christ our King.

Rescue

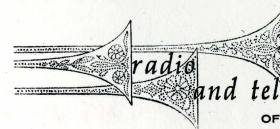
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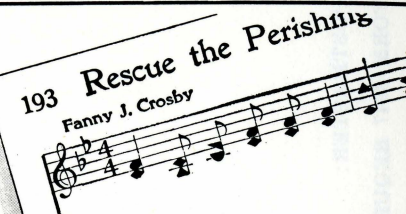
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"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel unto them." (Acts 16:9,10.)

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Snatch them in pity
From sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one,
Lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus
The Mighty to save.

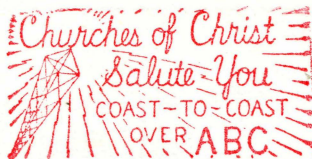
Tho' they are slighting Him,
Still He is waiting,
Waiting the penitent
Child to receive;
Plead with them earnestly,
Plead with them gently;
He will forgive
If they only believe.

Down in the human heart,
Crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried
That grace can restore;
Touched by a loving hand,
Wakened by kindness,
Chords that were broken
Will vibrate once more.

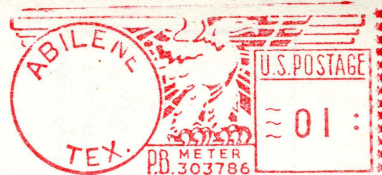
Rescue the perishing,
Duty demands it;
Strength for thy labor
The Lord will provide;
Back to the narrow way
Patiently win them;
Tell the poor wanderer
A Saviour has died.

—Fanny Crosby

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